

FACT SHEET



Lawrence County Mining Areas Superfund Site
Lawrence County, Missouri

February 2002

Introduction

The U. S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Region 7 will conduct well water sampling and soil sampling in the Lawrence County, Missouri area. Beginning this month, EPA will ask selected property owners for permission to sample private drinking water wells and/or soil from their yards. Participation in the sampling is voluntary and property owners will receive their sample results. The sampling and analysis are free. The sampling will begin the week of February 25, 2002.

Background

The Lawrence County Mining Areas Site is an inactive lead and zinc mining area in southwest Missouri. The Missouri Department of Natural Resources has conducted limited sampling in the area. The sample results show a need to do additional sampling to determine the extent of lead contamination.

Lead is a naturally occurring metal. Much of it comes from human activities including mining. Lead can damage the nervous system, kidneys, and reproductive system. Children are more sensitive to lead than adults and may develop permanent learning disabilities as a result of lead exposure.

Sampling Activities

EPA will start the sampling effort in and around Aurora, Missouri. The sampling will be done in residential and rural areas. EPA will sample only selected areas. The selected areas are near the historic mining operations. The sampling effort will be expanded as needed.

The sampling activities will consist of taking water from wells and taking about a cup of soil from designated areas in the yards. The sampling activities may take several weeks to complete.

Additional Information

EPA is in the process of scheduling an information session for the community. The session will give the community and EPA an opportunity to meet and talk about the site activities. We will notify the community as soon as the information session is scheduled.

If you have questions about this fact sheet or need additional site information, please contact:

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